



# ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

Á ALDARAFMÆLI MANITOBA



1870 MANITOBA CENTENNIAL 1970

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Íslendinga í Vesturheimi

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# ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd

MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd

1970



**ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN  
Á ALDARAFMÆLI MANITOBA 1970  
THE MANITOBA CENTENNIAL  
ÍCELANDIC FESTIVAL 1970**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st:**

- 8:30 a.m. Registration for Road Races.  
9:00 a.m. Western Canadian 10 mile Championship Road Race for 1970.  
9:00 a.m. Icelandic Festival 10 mile Open Road Race.  
Icelandic Festival 10 mile Juvenile Road Race.  
See p. 6 for details on all races.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd:**

- 10:00 a.m. Visit to Betel Home.  
11:00 a.m. Visit to Viking Statue.  
11:00 a.m. Registration for Track and Field events at **Canadian Forces Base**.  
12:00 noon Opening of Track and Field Meet. At **Canadian Forces Base**. See p. 7.  
1:00 p.m. Opening of Fine Arts Displays. At **Gimli Recreation and Leadership Centre**. See p. 5.  
3:30 p.m. Visit to **Stefansson Memorial Park at Arnes**.  
8:00 p.m. Hootenanny in **Gimli Park**. See p. 8.  
12:00 midnight Dance in **Park Pavilion**. See p. 8.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd:**

- 10:00 a.m. Parade from **Johnson Memorial Hospital**.  
11:00 a.m. Placing wreath on **Pioneers Monument**.  
12:00 noon Opening of childrens entertainment. Joyland rides. **Gimli Park**.  
12:00 noon The Rotary Club of Gimli presents "Fun and Games" in **Gimli Park**. Proceeds will be devoted to a community project.  
12:00 noon Opening of Beer Garden in **Park Pavilion**.  
12:30 p.m. Childrens and Special Event Races in **Gimli Park**. See p. 8.  
1:00 p.m. Canadian Forces Base Band Concert in **Gimli Park**.  
1:00 p.m. Fine Arts Displays. See p. 5.  
2:00 p.m. Opening of Traditional Festival Program in **Gimli Park**. See p. 5.  
7:30 p.m. Beauty and Popularity Contest in **Gimli Park**. See p. 8.  
8:00 p.m. Community Singing in **Gimli Park**.  
10:00 p.m. Dance in **Park Pavilion**. See p. 8.



# ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN Á ALDARAFMÆLI MANITOBA 1970

## THE MANITOBA CENTENNIAL ICELANDIC FESTIVAL 1970

MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd

2:00 p.m.

### TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL PROGRAM in Gimli Park

1. O Canada, Ó Guð vors lands, Gimli Centennial Choir and Canadian Forces Base Band
2. Chairman's remarks .....Mr. B. V. Arnason
3. Address of the Fjallkona .....Mrs. Valdheiður Lára Sigurdson
4. Introduction of guests
5. Vocal Solo .....Mr. R. P. Frederickson,  
Miss Snjólaug Sigurdson at the piano
6. Toast to Canada .....The Hon. R. S. Bowles,  
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
7. Selections .....The Singings Jakobsons
8. Toast to Iceland .....His Excellency Magnús Vignir Magnússon  
Ambassador of Iceland
9. Gimli Centennial Choir .....Mrs. G. D. Tesch Conductor
10. God Save the Queen .....Gimli Centennial Choir and  
The Gimli Band

### FINE ARTS DISPLAYS

Our displays are again located in the recreation hall of the **Recreation and Leadership Training Centre.**

They will be officially opened at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, August 2nd by H. Ex. Magnus Vignir Magnússon, Ambassador of Iceland and will be open to the public from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday and Monday.

A special feature of this years displays will be a movie of Icelandic Festivals in past years taken by Dr. Larus A. Sigurdson.

We are indebted to a number of sub-committees for planning, collecting material and arranging the displays.

The following chaired these committees:

Co-ordinator .....	T. Tergesen
Painting and Sculpture .....	Mrs. Edna Borgford Miss Solveig Borgford
Music and Poetry .....	Len Vopnfjord Karen Vopnfjord
Architecture and Engineering .....	Skapti Borgford Wayne Kinrade
Photography and Films .....	Steini Jakobson Le Beau Jakobson
Judge .....	Mr. Bruce Head

# ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN Á ALDARAFMÆLI MANITOBA 1970

## THE MANITOBA CENTENNIAL ICELANDIC FESTIVAL 1970

### SPORTS PROGRAM

#### THANK YOU!

In Manitoba's Centennial Year we salute **The Canadian Track and Field Association** who sanctioned the Western Canadian Ten Mile Championship Road Race, 1970 for inclusion in our sports program.

We also express our appreciation to **The Manitoba Track and Field Association** who endorsed our track and field meet and provided officials to conduct our Midget Juveniles and open events in accordance with rules of The International Amateur Association.

And finally we are most grateful for the co-operation and help received from the Officer Commanding and his staff in making available and preparing the excellent sports facilities of the **Canadian Forces Base at Gimli**.

#### SCHEDULE:

##### SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st:

- 8:30 a.m. Registration for 10 mile Road Races at junction of highways 9 and 229 at **Winnipeg Beach**.
- 9:00 a.m. Western Canadian Ten Mile Championship Road Race for 1970.
- Icelandic Festival Open 10 mile Road Race.
- Icelandic Festival Juvenile 10 mile Road Race.

##### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd:

##### TRACK AND FIELD MEET at Canadian Forces Base athletic field.

- 11:00 a.m. Registration.
- 12:00 noon Opening of competitions.

# ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

## Á ALDARAFMÆLI MANITOBA 1970

### THE MANITOBA CENTENNIAL ICELANDIC FESTIVAL 1970

#### Program:

	Event	Class
Men and Women .....	100 yards	Midget, Juvenile, Open
Men and Women .....	220 yards	Juvenile, Open
Men and Women .....	440 yards	Midget, Open
Men and Women .....	880 yards	Midget, Juvenile, Open
Men .....	1 mile	Juvenile, Open
Women .....	1 mile	Open
Men .....	2 miles	Open
Men and Women .....	4 x 110 Relay	Open
Men and Women .....	4 x 440 Relay	Open
Men and Women .....	1 mile Medley	Midget
Men and Women .....	Shot Put	Midget, Juvenile, Open
Men and Women .....	High Jump	Midget, Juvenile, Open
Men and Women .....	Long Jump	Midget, Juvenile, Open
Women .....	Javelin	Open

In addition there will be invitational events, including mens and womens 220 yards and 440 yards, womens 880 yards, mens 1 mile and mens pole vault.

#### Trophies

In addition to the Western Canadian 10 mile Championship, eight mayor trophies will be awarded to be held for one year by the winners.

**Oddson Shield** — Club with Highest Point Standing.

**Hanson Trophy** — Highest Point Standing Mens Open Events.

**Sveinn Sigfusson Trophy** — Highest Point Standing Mens Midget and Juvenile Events.

**Einar B. Johnson Trophy** — Highest Point Standing Mens Open Track Events.

**Janet Maddin Trophy** — Highest Point Standing Womens Open Events.

**Dr. Aldis E. Thorlakson Wengel Trophy** — Highest Point Standing Womens Midget and Juvenile Events.

**Icelandic Canadian Club Trophy** — Winner of open 10 mile road race.

**Stewart Trophy** — Winner of Juvenile 10 mile road race.



# ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

## Á ALDARAFMÆLI MANITOBA 1970

### CHILDREN'S AND SPECIAL EVENT RACES

MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd — GIMLI PARK

12:30 p.m. (or when parade is distanced)

Boys	Girls	Distance	Awards		
			1st	2nd	3rd
5 yrs. and under	5 yrs. and under	40 yds.	\$ .75	\$ .50	\$.25
6 yrs.	6 yrs.	50 yds.	.75	.50	.25
7 yrs.	7 yrs.	50 yds.	.75	.50	.25
8 yrs.	8 yrs.	60 yds.	1.00	.75	.50
9 yrs.	9 yrs.	60 yds.	1.00	.75	.50
10 yrs.	10 yrs.	60 yds.	1.00	.75	.50
11 yrs.	11 yrs.	75 yds.	1.25	1.00	.75
12 yrs.	12 yrs.	75 yds.	1.25	1.00	.75
13 yrs.	13 yrs.	75 yds.	1.25	1.00	.75
Married women —		75 yds.	2.00	1.50	1.00
Married men —		100 yds.	2.00	1.50	1.00
Mother and daughter three-legged race		50 yds.	2.00	1.50	1.00
Father and son three-legged race		75 yds.	2.00	1.50	1.00

### EVENING SPECIALS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd:

- 8:00 p.m. Hootenanny in **Gimli Park** featuring the "Whisky Jacks" with Solli Sigurdson and the "Squires" with Gary Squires.
- 12:00 p.m. Midnight Frolic in **Park Pavilion** with music by "Cascade County Band".

MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd:

- 8:00 p.m. Beauty and Popularity Contest in **Gimli Park**. Judges, Alice Kiuger Boyd Kozak and Bob Allison.
- 7:30 p.m. Community Singing in **Gimli Park** directed by R. P. Frederickson and Herman Fjeldsted with Mrs. Jona Kristjansson at the piano.
- 10:00 p.m. Dance in **Park Pavilion** with music by the "Tumble-weeds".

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

selur

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# The ICELANDIC CELEBRATION

FROM "*The Icelandic People in Manitoba*"

BY W. KRISTJANSON

The people of Icelandic extraction in Canada and in the United States hold an annual celebration on what is called *Íslendingadagurinn*, or "Icelanders' Day", on which occasion they pay tribute in speech and verse to the land of their origin and to the country that is now their own.

The first Icelandic community celebration in America was the impressive Millennial observance at Milwaukee on August 2, 1874, commemorating a thousand years of settlement of Iceland, against a background of the country's initial victory in its struggle for constitutional government. The first Icelandic celebration in Winnipeg was held on August 2, 1890.

The holding of an Icelandic celebration was editorially advocated in *Heimskringla* in the summer of 1888, the writer probably being Eggert Johannsson. Several people, the writer says, have advocated such an observance, after the fashion of other ethnic groups in the country. The Icelandic people he remarks, are small in numbers, only a few thousand scattered here and there among many millions and they should take every possible step that would unite them in thought and feeling. A national celebration would do this. Furthermore, the Icelanders have no cause to be ashamed of their racial origin. "The discovery of Vinland, the Republic of the Saga heroes, and their literature are jewels in the crown of the Icelandic nation which the filching hand of time can neither steal nor hide."



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To Jon Olafsson the poet belongs the credit for securing action in the matter. Shortly after his arrival in Winnipeg, in 1890, he contributed to *Logberg* an article of considerable length, entitled "Onward, Onward, Icelanders", in which he urged that a national celebration be held that summer, on August 2, the date of the Millennial celebration. *Heimskringla* did not think the day suitable because of the harvesting and haying season, but conceded that it would do for once. The two Icelandic weeklies joined forces in strong support of the project, and urged various Icelandic associations in the city to send representatives to form a committee. The committee as

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formed included Reverend Jon Bjarnason, Einar Hjorleifsson, Jon Olafsson, Eggert Johannsson, Gestur Pálsson, Sigtryggur Jonasson, and W. H. Paulson.

A successful celebration was held on August 2, 1890, in Victoria Gardens. The Icelandic community in Winnipeg then

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numbered some three thousand people, one-tenth of the entire population of the city, and it was a large procession that formed upon the grounds south of the First Lutheran church, at the corner of Ross and Nena streets. Approximately forty carriages had been provided for the women and children. The

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parade, headed by the Infantry School band, started about 10 a.m., and travelled east on Ross street; south on Isabel; east on Notre Dame Avenue and Portage Avenue; north on Main; east on Rupert street, and so to the park.

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The program, with toasts to Iceland and to America, original poems, addresses, singing, and sports, set a high standard of excellence as well as a pattern for future celebrations. Guests of honor included the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Schultz;

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Canada

the Attorney-General, Honorable Isaac Campbell, and the American consul, Mr. Taylor, and these men paid tribute to the Icelandic people. The main speakers were Reverend Bjarnason, Einar Hjorleifsson, Jon Olafsson, and Eggert Johannsson. Olafsson and Hjorleifsson delivered original poems. The sports program included running, jumping, Icelandic wrestling, and a boat-race. Community singing followed, with dancing in the evening.

Visitors from the Icelandic settlements in Manitoba and North Dakota helped to swell the attendance and the celebration was one of the outstanding social events in Winnipeg in that

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year. The English-language papers devoted considerable space to their account of the day and were highly complimentary to the Icelandic people. *The Free Press* pointed out that in comparison with Iceland's cultural tradition of a thousand years, Canada was scarcely out of her infancy, and remarked that the Icelandic settlers would not be less but more thought of by all intelligent people for possessing pride in their racial origin. *The Winnipeg Daily Tribune* noted that the procession was the largest that had been seen on the streets of Winnipeg, and that the number of Icelanders in the city was a matter of revelation and wonderment. The *Tribune* also dwelt on the cultural

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achievement of the Icelandic people and spoke of their characteristics of thrift, industry, honesty, and loyalty, all of which had become a by-word.

The celebration of 1890 attracted attention to the Icelandic people, and also enhanced their own appreciation of their national heritage. It brought the various Icelandic communities closer together. People met and exchanged news, and on their return they had much to relate, and those unable to attend followed the accounts in the papers with keen interest.

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## THE ICELANDIC CELEBRATION TODAY

The Icelandic Celebration, first held in Winnipeg in 1890 and at Gimli since 1932, is a special event on the Icelandic calendar. The observance of the day coincides with the civic holiday in Winnipeg and buses and cars from the city, and cars from most of the Icelandic communities in the Interlake district—from Selkirk, Riverton, Arborg, Lundar, Ashern, and other points—converge on Gimli that day. Formerly, Argyle and North Dakota were represented. On special occasions, such as the diamond jubilee of the celebration in 1949, the attendance has been as high as four thousand, but more often in recent years it has been 1,500 to 2,000.

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The pattern set at Victoria Gardens in 1890 has been followed over the period of years, with some innovations. The Fjallkona was first featured in 1924. The program traditionally includes a brief address of welcome from the Fjallkona (the Maid of the Mountains); greetings from Iceland, conveyed by the Icelandic consul in Winnipeg; greetings from the Province of Manitoba; toasts to Iceland and Canada; choral music; sports;

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a procession to the pioneer memorial; community singing at twilight, and dancing in the evening. In recent years the day has begun with a procession of automobiles and floats through the town, with the Fjallkona conspicuous in the van.

The Fjallkona is symbolic of Iceland as Britannia is symbolic of England. Seated on her elevated throne, clad in the beautiful and dignified formal Icelandic national costume of

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white gown, green robe trimmed with ermine, high-crowned head-dress of white veil falling over the shoulders to the waist, and gold belt, she is the presiding genius of the day. Two maids of honor, formerly clad in the plain Icelandic costume with tasselled skull cap, are now dressed in white. In years gone by, when visitors from North Dakota attended, these maids of honor were known as Miss Canada and Miss America.

The themes of the toasts to Iceland, delivered in Icelandic, are traditionally the beauty of the Icelandic landscape, the

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riches of Icelandic literature, and Iceland today. The toasts to Canada, in English, would grace any Canada Day celebration. "Canada has opened her arms to us, this beautiful land of the future, and taken possession of our minds, and hearts, and to her we owe more duties than to learn the English language and pay taxes when the times are good", said Dr. Jon Stefansson in 1935. Traditionally, one of these toasts is in the form of an original poem.

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The 75th anniversary of the settlement of New Iceland was commemorated at the 1950 celebration. Rector Palmi Hannesson, special representative of the Icelandic government, expressed appreciation of the credit which the Icelandic settlers in America had earned for the Icelandic people. Fjallkona on this occasion was Mrs. A. N. Sommerville (née Steinunn J. Stefanson), daughter of one of the pioneers of 1875, and speakers at the divine service held on the preceding day were

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Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson, nephew of Dr. Jon Bjarnason, and Reverend Philip M. Petursson, nephew of Dr. Rognvaldur Petursson.

Formerly, the sports events were a prominent feature of the day, and for many years the program included, besides track and field events, Icelandic wrestling, middle distance running, bicycle racing, archery, and baseball. Athletic clubs from Winnipeg, Selkirk, Lundar, Argyle and Gimli, and individuals from other places competed, and a high standard was set in the period from 1905 to 1940 by such outstanding athletes as Kristjan Backman, Magnus Kelly, the brothers Jack and Ben Baldwin, Einar Johnson, Bjorgvin Stefansson, A. O. (Gusti) Magnusson, Sveinn Sigfusson, and others. The coveted trophies were the Oddson Shield for club competition, and the Hanson

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The Icelandic celebration is an occasion for reunions. Relatives and friends and acquaintances who may not have seen each other for a year or a day meet and talk. The scene is colorful and animated. Also, the celebration is an occasion for Icelandic dishes, and after the program the people stream to the pavilion for a repast of rullupylsa, Icelandic brown bread, skyr, vinarterta, rolled pancakes, and a cup of *molakaffi* (coffee with lump sugar).

The original purpose of the celebration was to commemorate the granting of a constitution to Iceland in 1874, but in time it was to honor the pioneers. A pioneers' pavilion has been erected near the speakers' platform, in the shade of the stately evergreens.

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Today, the celebration is primarily a pleasurable outing but the deeper significance of this festive occasion has not been dismissed from the mind. The sacrifices and the achievements of the pioneers are recalled. Moreover, the celebration has had a cultural significance; it did much for the development of a high standard of sports and athletics in the Icelandic communities; it long served as a bond between the larger Icelandic

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settlements in Manitoba; it has helped to maintain among the Canadian born a sympathetic consciousness of Iceland, and to maintain a sense of kinship among the people of Icelandic origin in Canada.

The seventy-fifth Icelandic celebration was held on August 3, 1964, with the Prime Minister of Iceland, Dr Bjarni Benediktsson, a guest of honor and the main speaker. The Prime

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Minister was an ambassador of good will.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, the President of Iceland, His Excellency Asgeir Asgeirsson, was the guest of honor and delivered the toast to Iceland.

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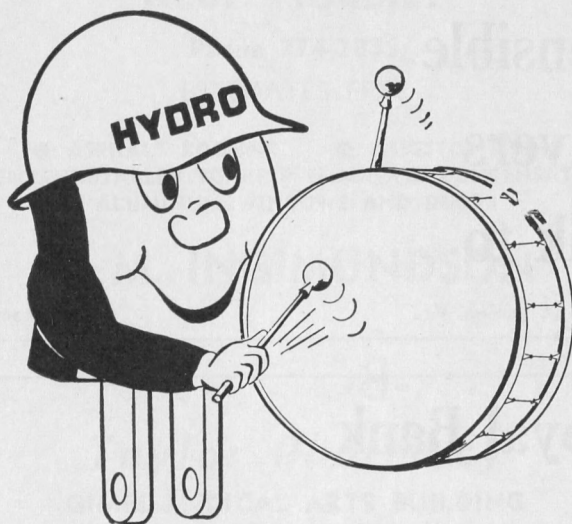
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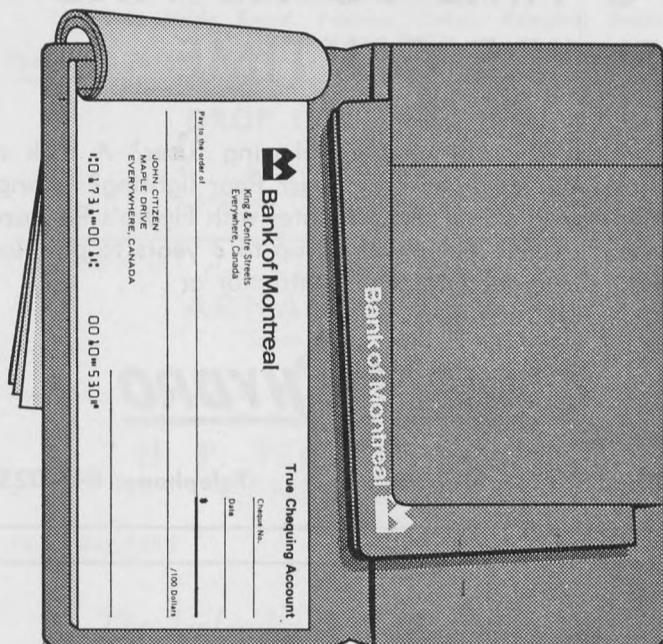
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